An Act to Create the Lobster Innovation Fund

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and
Senators: LAWRENCE of York, RENY of Lincoln.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 619, sub-c. 4-A, headnote is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4-A

LOBSTER RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND AND
LOBSTER INNOVATION FUND

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6465, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 623, §1, is amended to read:

The Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund, referred to in this subchapter section as "the fund," is established in the department. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward and used for the purposes of this section.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6466 is enacted to read:

§6466. Lobster Innovation Fund

The Lobster Innovation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward. The fund must be used to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Lobster Innovation Fund  N439

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to establish a nonlapsing fund to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Lobster Innovation Fund to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies and appropriates one-time funds of $1 million in each year of the biennium to the fund.